

# M Hawaii MARINE

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 20

THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

MAY18, 2007



OC spray  
A-3



Museum  
B-1



Triathlon  
C-1

## Marines provide 19-gun salute during ceremony

**Pfc. Ethan Hoaldrige**  
*U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific*

**U.S. NAVAL STATION PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii** — The Marine Corps' tradition of professionalism and training to execute with perfection earned 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, the honor of providing arrival honors for the Chief of Naval Operations, May 8.

The Navy requested 1/12 to provide the 19-gun salute during the United States Pacific Fleet change-of-command ceremony at U.S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Navy Capt. Jim Dolin, officer-in-

charge of the ceremony, said, "I wanted the Marines' sharp appearance and professionalism for this special occasion, and they brought it with them."

Each Marine, 105mm round and M101A1 Howitzer was perfectly aligned and ready for the salute to Admiral Michael G. Mullen, U.S. Navy Chief of Operations, during the change of command ceremony for Admirals Gary Roughead, Commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Robert F. Willard, who relieved Roughead.

"The Marines started preparing for this two weeks ago, and they did an excellent job," said Gunnery Sgt. Iuni

Amperosa, 1/12 field artillery chief. "It's a special honor for them to represent the Marine Corps and 1/12 and provide the salute to these commanders."

The rest of 1/12 is currently deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Some of the Marines participating didn't have enough time left on their active duty contract to deploy with their unit one last time.

"I'm getting out soon, so this is a great opportunity at the end of my tour," said Cpl. Guiliano Alano, 1/12 section chief. He chuckled, "I get to go out with a bang."



Pfc. Ethan Hoaldrige

Marines from 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, provide a 19-gun salute to Adm. Michael G. Mullen, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations during the U.S. Pacific Fleet change-of-command ceremony aboard U.S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor, May 8.



Cpl. Stephen Kwietniack

Corporal Cody Hromada, assistant patrol leader, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, speaks with a Haditha citizen while on a patrol through the city April 10.

## Bravo takes to the streets

**Cpl. Rick Nelson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**HADITHA, Iraq** — Tasked with defeating insurgents, gaining the trust of the local populace, coordinating reconstruction and other humanitarian projects, Marines assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2 and members of the Iraqi Police are immersed in counterinsurgency operations.

Conducting operations in the Haditha

Triad region of Iraq's Al Anbar province, Cpl. Cody Hromada, assistant patrol leader, Bravo Company, 1/3, and Iraqi Police Lieutenant "Jack" understand the war they fight.

Jack (whose real name remains anonymous for security reasons) is satisfied with American service members being here.

Working side by side with the Marines, Jack knows they are vital to the success of the Iraqi Police.

"They help us with everything and

before they got here the town wasn't as safe as it is now," Jack said. "People in town used to never speak to us because they were scared for their lives, but now they come out and invite us into their homes for dinner."

On a recent patrol, Hromada noticed a piece of copper wire on the ground and followed it over a wall.

"I kept following it and noticed that it led into the road underneath the cement,

*See BRAVO, A-4*

## Al Anbar province still dangerous but getting better

**Gerry J. Gilmore**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — Life in Iraq's Anbar province is still dangerous, but security is improving, the senior commander for ground operations in the province said Monday in Baghdad.

For example, 22 joint security stations in the town of Ramadi now are helping to tamp down violence, Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, ground forces commander for Multinational Force West, said during a news conference.

"As security continues to improve, we don't think that there will be a need for all of those security stations," Gurganus, whose jurisdiction includes Anbar province, said.

Much success has been achieved in reducing violence in Anbar province, Gurganus said, although he acknowledged that conditions there can still be precarious for residents as well as for Iraqi and coalition forces.

"There are still dangerous things going on there," the one-star general said. "While we have achieved a great deal of success, there still are dangers."

Gurganus cited Anbar residents' growing disapproval of and hostility toward Al Qaeda and other terrorists as an indicator of an improving climate across the western province.

"We clearly see that the Iraqi citizens have grown tired of what the insurgency has to offer; they do not want any part of it," Gurganus said.

Iraqis living in Anbar province want a cessation of violence, he noted, and a secure future for themselves and their families.

Iraqi citizens in Anbar are increasingly providing information about insurgent operations to Iraqi security forces, he said.

*See ANBAR, A-6*

## K-Bay service members pumped up to donate

**Christine Cabalo**  
*Photojournalist*

Sergeant Rex Gonzalez owes a debt to the Armed Services Blood Program. Without medical services from the program's blood bank, his son, John Cedrex Gonzalez, may not be the active 2-year-old he is today.

"My son was born prematurely in Okinawa," said Gonzalez, legal non-commissioned officer, Headquarters Battalion. "He weighed one pound, and he needed a blood transfusion. My son has been the inspiring force behind starting these blood drives."

The latest blood drive, sponsored by

HQBN, happened Friday aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. During the five-hour drive, 44 people were able to donate blood at the battalion's conference room in Building 4009. Each donor contributed a pint of blood.

"The idea is we collect blood from the military to give back to the military," said Guy Harrigan, blood donor recruiter, ASBP, Tripler Army Medical Center. "We're not funded by the city government or receive financial support from the Red Cross. We reach out to our military ohana (family) to support the program."

*See BLOOD, A-6*



Christine Cabalo

Specialist James Franklin, lab tech, Tripler Army Medical Center, monitors Sgt. Robert Fischer, martial arts instructor, Regimental Schools.



# News Briefs

### Clinic Central Appointment Number Changing

In an effort to streamline services and provide greater access to care for beneficiaries of Makalapa and Kaneohe Bay Branch Health Clinics, there will be one combined central appointment line. On Monday, medical appointments for either clinic can be scheduled by dialing 473-0247 between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Weekend same-day appointments are available at either Makalapa or Kaneohe Bay Branch Health Clinics by calling 473-0247 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sundays. Naval Health Clinic Hawaii does have an After-hours Provider Advice Line that enables beneficiaries to speak with a medical provider anytime the clinics are closed. This service is accessed simply by calling the above central appointment phone number and there is an option to speak with an answering service who will contact an after-hours provider. The provider will return a beneficiary's call within the hour.

### Weekly Legal Brief

A new weekly brief to aid Marines, Sailors and civilian personnel on Wills and Powers of Attorney will be held at the Legal Services Center, Legal Assistance Office, every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Also included are some important tips on wills and powers of attorney.

### Recruiter Assistants Needed

The Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pa., is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants. RS Harrisburg covers the following counties in Pennsylvania: Fulton, Franklin, Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Chester, Berks, Schuylkill, Wyoming, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Northampton, Carbon, Lehigh, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Delaware. For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact Staff Sgt. Christopher Cunningham at (717) 770-6637.

### Tax Return Assistance

The tax center is now located in Building 215, Room 201. For service members who still need assistance with filing their federal or state tax returns, please stop by or call 257-4038 ext. 228 for an appointment.

### CLICK IT or TICKET

*Hawaii Marine* urges its readers to buckle up. It's an easy habit to learn that may some day save your life and the life of your passenger(s). Remember, each and every time you get into your vehicle, reach for your seatbelt. Make it one of those good habits that you won't want to break.

### Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

## Hawaii MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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Petty Officer 1st Class James E. Foehl

Admiral Robert F. Willard, former Vice Chief of Naval Operations, salutes as he's piped through the sideboys during a change of command ceremony for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Willard assumed command of U.S. Pacific Fleet from Adm. Gary Roughead during the ceremony.

# Command of U.S. Pacific Fleet under new leadership

### News Release

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

**PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii** — Adm. Gary Roughead was relieved by Adm. Robert F. Willard as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, during a change of command ceremony held May 8, on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chief of naval operations, presided over the ceremony, which overlooked the historic memorials of USS Arizona and USS Missouri. He recognized Roughead for the “latest chapter in what has truly been an amazing career” and passed the helm to Willard, “sitting like a Tomcat (of which he flew) ... waiting to launch.” “Next to heroism and war, this ceremony represents the zenith of military achievement – a significant milestone in the careers of two great naval officers,” Mullen said. Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, joined the CNO in praising Roughead for his many contributions to the Pacific Fleet and to the state of Hawaii and in welcoming Willard to the Navy's largest fleet command, which encompasses more than 100 million square miles and 172 ships and submarines, 1,296 aircraft, and 122,000 Sailors, Reservists and civilians. “It is my privilege ... to speak for all the men and women – soldiers, Sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, civilians and the entire Pacific Command – in expressing our sincere thanks to Gary Roughead for (his) service in this world's largest and most demanding naval theater, United States Pacific Fleet,” Keating said. “You have made great strides in terms of security, engagement and an open relationship with all the 43 countries in our area of responsibility.” During his tour as U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, Roughead, as spoken by both Mullen and Keating, remained focused on warfighting, force posturing, building regional relationships and, most importantly, leading the Fleet. “At Pacific Fleet we set warfighting as our number-one priority, and it must be that way,” Roughead said. “We have demonstrated that our naval forces are ready and flexible and agile.” From the Fleet's continued support in the nation's Global War on Terrorism to naval hospital ship USNS Mercy's (T-AH 19) deployments

to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, the men and women of Pacific Fleet have projected decisive maritime power when ordered, have built strong maritime partnerships, and have maintained the highest level of mission readiness. “I have seen first hand, the readiness you have delivered today. The ships looked great. But, what impressed me most were the Sailors,” said Mullen as he spoke of recent visits to Pacific Fleet ships and submarines. “Their pride and professionalism filled my chest with pride. These are your people. Our people. They are ready, and they want to make a difference. They are a testament to your leadership.” Mullen also spoke of the contributions made by Roughead's wife, Ellen, thanking her for her leadership, her involvement in a diverse array of activities, and her commitment to improving the quality of life for the Pacific Fleet families. She received the distinguished public service award. Before relinquishing command, Roughead thanked all in attendance and all who supported him during his time in Hawaii, most specifically speaking of the event that culminated his tour – the May 5 commissioning of the Navy's newest fast-attack submarine, USS Hawaii (SSN 776). “It was the perfect event to close out my time as Pacific Fleet commander,” Roughead said. “I want to thank the citizens of Hawaii, the Aloha State, who represent the unwavering support and the firm commitment to what our Navy and our military does here in the Pacific.” Following the Pacific Fleet tour, Roughead now leaves the islands of Hawaii for Virginia, where he will relieve Adm. John B. Nathman as commander, Fleet Forces Command, later this month in Norfolk. A 1973 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Roughead assumed command of U.S. Pacific Fleet on July 8, 2005, just nine months after reporting as second-in-command of U.S. Pacific Command in October 2004. Prior to his tour there, Roughead served as the commander of U.S. Second Fleet, commander of the NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic, and commander of Naval Forces North Fleet East based in Norfolk. Other command assignments have included commandant of the Naval Academy; commander of Cruiser Destroyer Group Two and the USS George Washington Battle Group; and

the commanding officer of the Aegis destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) and the Hawaii-based cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73). He is the first naval officer to command both classes of Aegis ships. Willard, also a 1973 graduate of the Naval Academy, most recently completed his assignment as the 34th vice chief of naval operations in Washington, D.C. An F-14 aviator, he has served in the Joint Staff, was deputy and chief of staff of the Pacific Fleet here from October 2001 to June 2002, and commanded Carrier Group Five aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and the U.S. Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan. Other assignments also include the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), commanding officer of USS Tripoli (LPH 10) and USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Mullen, before concluding the ceremony, placed his utmost confidence in Willard and his wife, Donna, as they embark on the journey of leading the Pacific Fleet. “They are excited, and they are the right couple at the right time to assume the watch. Our Navy has a way of finding good talent, fitting just the right people in the right place even as the superb ones move on,” Mullen said as he posed to Willard a similar challenge given to Adm. Chester Nimitz in World War II. At the onset of the war, “Adm. Chester Nimitz received word ... to take command of the Pacific Fleet. Nimitz wrote back, ‘It is a great responsibility and I will do my utmost to meet it.’ (Bob,) I know you will do the utmost to meet it as well.” After reading his orders, Willard echoed the historic significance of commanding the Pacific Fleet and accepted the challenge set out before him. “For a U.S. naval officer, there are few leadership assignments that highlight the tradition, the history, and the operational opportunities than the Pacific Fleet,” Willard said. “Whether by ensuring regional partners by our presence, sharing our knowledge of the maritime domain to promote safety, helping enforce the laws of the sea, or actively defending friends and the United States from threats of attack from on, under or above the seas. The Pacific Fleet remains vital to our nation and to this region. I have every confidence in this Fleet's capabilities. I am thrilled and humbled to be given the opportunity to command.”

## Weekend weather outlook

### Today



**Day** — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 82. Southeast wind around 13 mph becoming northeast. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. Southwest wind around 8 mph.

**High** — 82

**Low** — 72

### Saturday



**Day** — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 83. Southwest wind 6 to 9 mph becoming northeast.

**Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers before 8pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. Southwest wind around 6 mph.

**High** — 83

**Low** — 72

### Sunday



**Day** — A 20 percent chance of showers after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 80. Southwest wind 6 to 11 mph becoming northeast.

**Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. Southwest wind around 7 mph.

**High** — 80

**Low** — 72





Staff Sgt. Shelby Fields, primary instructor for the Security Augmentation Force, Military Police Department, briefs the members of the SAF on various safety measures before spraying them with OC spray. The SAF is a contingency force set up by General Hummer, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, to assist the MPD.

# Security Augmentation Force gets sprayed

Story and Photos by  
**Pfc. Brian A. Marion**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Screams of agony filled the air May 10 as the Security Augmentation Force, composed of 33 Marines and Sailors from various units aboard the base, got sprayed in the face at the softball field near the Military Police Department.

The spray, oleoresin capsicum, also known as pepper spray, is used in training so law enforcement knows what it feels like to be sprayed and how to react after being sprayed.

“It’s like putting your face in a frying pan,” said Sgt. Kenneth Thornton, training noncommissioned officer, MPD. “The gas affects about 90 percent of the people immediately and it takes about an hour for the effects of the spray to start wearing off.”

The SAF also had to go through being sprayed as part of the course they were taking, said Thornton.

“The SAF is a contingency force that Brig. Gen. (Steven) Hummer (base commanding general), wants in place in case of a terrorist attack or if a major disaster hits the base,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Wilding, training chief, MPD. “They would be called in to help augment the (Provost Marshal’s Office) during such a time.”

The Marines and Sailors from SAF were either handpicked, or volunteered to undergo the training.

The SAF went through level one spraying, which was being sprayed directly in the face, remarked Thornton.

Level two is where the person is wiped with a rag sprayed with OC, and level three is where the spray is airborne.

The Marines and Sailors went through the “confidence course” by going through

five stations with the spray remaining on their face and were led to each station by an escort.

Thornton said it usually takes about 15-20 seconds for each station if they do it correctly.

During the course, the students were first sprayed in the face for about three seconds at a minimum of 36 inches away. Any closer and there was a chance of the spray puncturing the eye, said Staff Sgt. Shelby Fields, the primary instructor of the course.

The first station was the blocking station. At this station, there were two Marines with striking pads who stood there and started attacking the trainee. The trainee had to block the strikes with his forearms while yelling for his attackers to get back.

After completing the first station, the student moved on to the second and third stations in which they punched one pad and performed knee strikes to the other.

The fourth station was the most difficult. Each student faced Cpl. Barry Walton, K-9 unit, in a “Red Man” protec-

tive suit. This pure red figure tested the SAF on how well they handled a target fighting against them. Each time the trainee forgot to put up their guard, he would bonk them on the head with a foam baton.

After their time was up with the Red Man, they went back to the blocking station, but this time the station had a little twist. As the trainee blocked the attacks from the two Marines, their escort came up from behind and grabbed for their pistol holstered at their side. When their pistol was grabbed, the trainees were to disengage their attackers, free their pistols and face the new threat.

The trainee then ordered their escort into the prone position, had them cross their legs, put their arms in the air and face away. The SAF members then arrested the attacker, and went down to a knee to call for help.

After they successfully completed the course, they were led to a detox area and were sprayed with water to help ease the pain from the spray.

The SAF class graduated Friday.



Private Ryan Sherman, a Security Augmentation Force trainee, grimaces in pain from the OC spray that was sprayed in his face as an instructor looks onward.



Sergeant Kenneth Thornton, training non-commissioned officer, MPD, is flexi-cuffed by a Security Augmentation Force trainee at the fifth stage of the OC spraying. There are five stations that the SAF students have to go through to complete the course.



Corporal Barry Walton, K-9 unit, is dressed up in a "Red Man" suit at station four of the OC spray course. Sailors and Marines from various units around the base participated in the training. The “Red Man’s” job was to test the SAF on how well they handled a target fighting against them.



# Corps looks to expand EOD force

**Lance Cpl. Richard Blumenstein**  
*MCB Camp Butler*

**CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan** — The Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal community is looking for mature, highly qualified, self-disciplined and versatile corporals and sergeants to step up and cut the wire. Since the start of the Global War on Terrorism, the EOD technician field has expanded tremendously in the Marine Corps. Each year, EOD looks to recruit more than 100 eligible Marines into its ranks, according to Sgt. Brian D. Diaz, an EOD technician with EOD Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. “We’re looking for the best candidates possible,” Diaz said. “There is no ceiling as to how many EOD techs we can have, but we are currently looking for 121 Marines to make the move.” Marines desiring a lateral move into the field should contact their career retention specialist and ask for the EOD screening checklist.

EOD technicians’ mission is to locate, identify, render safe and dispose of potentially hazardous materials such as improvised explosive devices, unexploded ordnance and weapons of mass destruction. They may also deal with biological and chemical munitions and nuclear ordnance. To meet the EOD screening requirements, a Marine must have an armed services vocational aptitude general technical score of 110 or higher, a first class physical fitness test score, and he must be medically qualified and be eligible for a top secret clearance. The Marine must also be at least 21-years-old and either a corporal or a sergeant. Sergeants must have less than two years time in grade. Diaz said Marines should not be discouraged if they do not meet all the screening requirements. “Some things can be waived and some can’t,” Diaz said. “If they’ve got a blemish on their record they should still apply. The worst thing that could happen is that we say no.” Marines who lateral move into the MOS will

attend a seven-month course at the Naval School, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. EOD Technicians will also receive Demolition Duty Incentive Pay for as long as they remain in the MOS. “After the school you’ll be able to identify everything from a 5.56mm round to a nuclear weapon,” Diaz said. “You’ll know how to render them safe using the least amount of explosives to achieve the highest benefit.” EOD technicians can be assigned a variety of duties that include supporting the secret service and reconnaissance units. Once a Marine is selected for EOD school, then that Marine’s current command has two options, Diaz said. “When Headquarters Marine Corps gives the thumbs up for a Marine to lateral move into EOD, then his command can either keep him until his class opens up or we can take him,” Diaz said. “What we try to do, is to cut him (on-the-job training) orders so he has an advantage when he goes to school.”

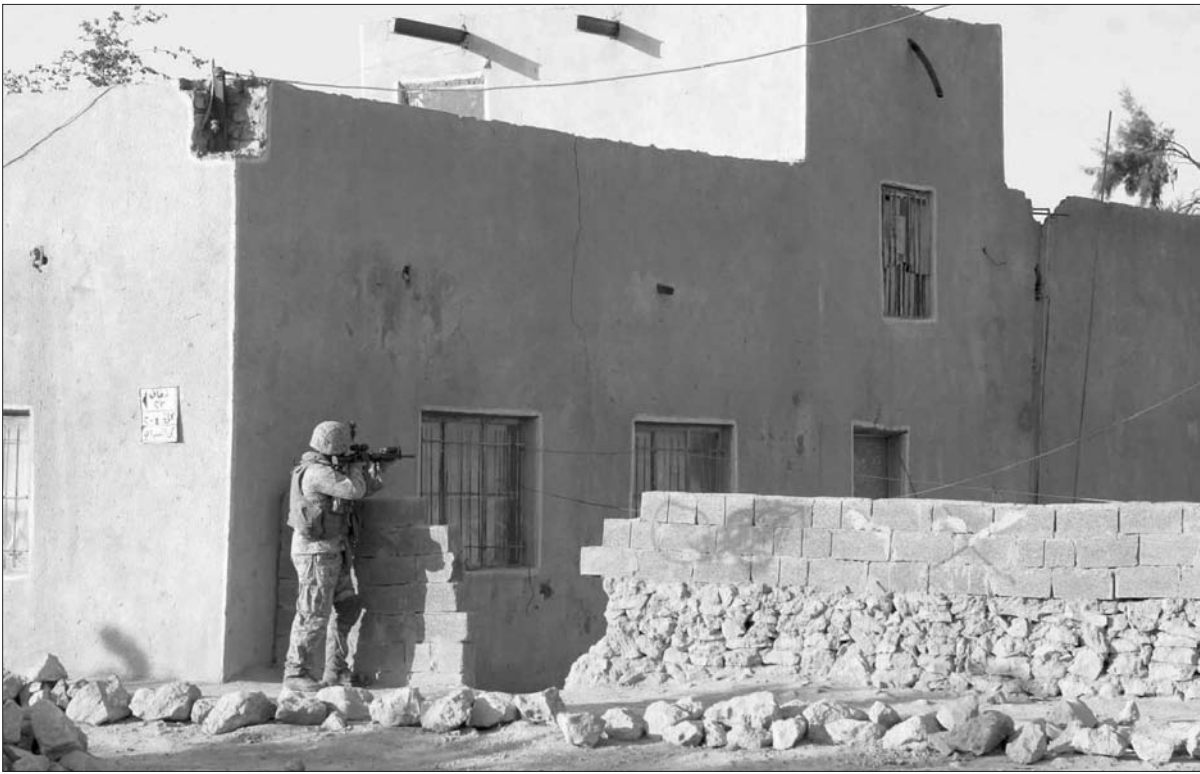


Cpl. Daniel J. Redding  
Sergeant Jeffrey W. Kilpatrick, a 30-year-old native of Fort Pierce, Fla., talks to Sgt. Bryan E. Carter, a 23-year-old native of Pleasant Hill, Iowa, while Carter operates a robot as the two respond to a reported improvised explosive device in Habbaniyah, Iraq, July 29, 2006.



Cpl. Stephen Kwietniack  
Marines assigned to Bravo Company, 1/3, provide security to the city of Haditha, Iraq, with mounted patrols April 10. While on patrol, the Lava Dogs looked for improvised explosive devices, weapons caches and any insurgent activity.

A Marine assigned to Bravo Company, 1/3, secures an area in Haditha April 10 while on patrol.



Cpl. Stephen Kwietniack

## BRAVO, from A-1

so we called (explosive ordnance disposal) and it turned out to be an (improvised explosive device),” Hromada said. Understanding his role as a noncommissioned officer, Hromada is getting to know the local people and children by going on patrols and handing out candy and school supplies. “The people notice we’re a new unit and have been very friendly, welcoming us with food and being very helpful,” said Hromada. “We just want to do anything and everything we can to show the locals that we’re here for them. The more understanding they are that we’re here to help, the less likely they’ll be to take the side of the insurgents.” Conducting security patrols, IED sweeps, raids

and other operations can be taxing on anyone. But Jack, once an officer in the Iraqi army, explained how the Marines’ actions and operations have worked to better this area. “Before, every day we had many mortar and sniper attacks,” Jack said. “When we went out we would be shot at. The civilians have changed and will actually talk to us without being scared.” Both Hromada and Jack said they feel their efforts will bring stability and security to the region. “At any given time we have a section outside the wire,” Hromada said. “And that’s what it’s all about, getting out there and getting the bad guys out of the city, so the people can go on with their lives. I mean this is what we’re here for, to help the locals and keep them safe.”



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# AROUND THE CORPS



Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler

Major Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, tours service members' living areas with commanders of Exercise Cobra Gold 2007 May 8.

## Leader visits Korat, praises service members' efforts during Cobra Gold

**Lance Cpl. Noah S. Leffler**

*U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific*

**KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR BASE** — The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general paid a visit to the air base Tuesday during Exercise Cobra Gold 2007.

Cobra Gold is a regularly scheduled joint/combined multinational exercise and is the latest in the continuing series of U.S.-Thai military exercises.

It is mutually beneficial for the Pacific partners to train together to improve interoperability and build

friendly cooperative relations, thus improving responses to contingencies such as the December 2004 Tsunami.

Maj. Gen. George J. Trautman III observed deployed operational capabilities here and spoke with commanders and their units during the stop.

"When the commanding general can physically see the progress we are making, it makes it easier to relay that progress to Marine Forces Pacific," said Lt. Col. Mark R. Wise, Marine Aircraft Group 12 executive officer.

"Communication is an

enormous facilitator in these exercises," he added. "He saw our operations are what he expected."

During the visit, Trautman checked on the service members' standard of living by touring the barracks and messing facilities.

While stopping at work areas in the maintenance building and Quonset hut, Trautman personally thanked and talked to the Marines and sailors keeping aircraft flying and ground operations running smoothly.

"This is some exciting stuff," said Trautman. "I want to thank you for pushing the edge of the envelope with

what you're doing here."

Cpl. Phillip G. Benefield, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 flight equipment technician and San Augustine, Texas, native, spent time explaining a new Joint Helmet-Mounted Queuing System to the commanding general.

The system uses state-of-the-art electronics to project a "Heads-Up Display" on the visor of the pilot's helmet, and Trautman was eager to try on and learn about the new equipment.

"It's good when the higher-ups want to see what's coming down technology-

wise," said Benefield. "I enjoy any time I can show (the JHMQS) off."

Sgt. Will J. Ryder, mechanic, motor transportation, Combat Logistics Company 36 and native of Crystal Lake, Ill., feels the visit was a morale-boost for the service members working hard to support the exercise.

"When he comes to see how Marines work in their (Military Occupational Specialties), it shows that he cares about what his Marines do best," Ryder said.

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U.S. Marine Forces Pacific

BLOOD, from A-1

Harrigan said blood collected is used locally at Tripler in Honolulu or sent to benefit deployed service members in areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

If blood is purchased from outside sources, such as the Blood Bank of Hawaii or the Red Cross, it could cost \$400 per pint, he said.

Some Marines and Sailors who were the first to donate at the drive are life-long supporters of the program.

Seven service members gave blood within the first 15 minutes of the drive.

“I’ve donated about 18 pints over the years,” said Staff Sgt. Jaime Navarro, combat engineer, Headquarters Battalion. “It’s a rush to donate, and the first time I did it I realized it was-

n’t painful at all.”

Donating blood for service members helps donors and recipients, said Gonzalez. He remembers feeling a swell of pride the first time he donated blood after his son’s birth in Okinawa. He now donates every chance he can, and has given nine pints in the last three years.

He said because blood is critically needed abroad, he tries to coordinate blood drives every two months. Blood donors can generally give blood again after a 56-day waiting period.

“My blood is going to Marines and other service members,” said Sgt. Robert Fischer, martial arts instructor, Regimental Schools, who donated during the drive. “It’s a good feeling to know that you’re helping someone who’s deployed, and it’s a quick process.”

Anyone can donate to the program during base blood drives or at the medical center. All donors must weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years of age.

Harrigan, who schedules blood drives throughout Hawaii, said he hopes to find more family and friends of the deployed to donate.

“The program is looking for support from civilians because they’re the largest group of viable donors,” said Harrigan. “The pool of service members who can donate is smaller now because of an increase in the number of regiments who are deployed and those who just came back. We really need their support.”

To make appointments for donation online log on to: <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/> or for more information, call 433-6699.

ANBAR, from A-1

A second indicator of success in Anbar is illustrated by the brave Iraqi army and police that serve across the province, said Gurganus.

Although challenged by danger, Iraqi security forces in Anbar province “come back to work” each day, he said.

“They know that they are the solution for the future,” Gurganus said of the security forces.

There’ll be additional success against insurgents operating in Anbar, Gurganus predicted, noting U.S. and coalition forces now enjoy a “full partnership” with Iraqi security forces serving

across the province.

Also, recruitment for Iraqi security forces is up across Anbar, Gurganus said.

“Now, the sons of Al Anbar have stood up and are stepping forward to join the Iraqi army and the Iraqi police,” he said.

